

But when we do hear about CDC, we know we are facing an urgent crisis—but that the crisis is being handled expertly—whether it is occurrence of a mysterious infectious disease, later called Legionnaires' disease in Philadelphia, or the first case of AIDS in San Francisco; illness and death from food contaminated with *E. coli* in the States of Washington, California, Idaho, and Nevada; measles epidemics in major metropolitan areas across the United States; cryptosporidium in Milwaukee drinking water; serious illness from oysters in Florida; an outbreak of hanta virus in New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, and Colorado; the reemergence of tuberculosis as a serious health risk, especially in New York, Miami, and Los Angeles; or lead poisoning in children in Chicago and Rhode Island.

While CDC has been catapulted only recently onto suburban movie screens because it inspired "The Hot Zone," the agency has, over its 50-year history, cooled off many hot zones with its unique expertise and capability. CDC assists governments and health officials all over the world in preventing and controlling disease and responding to crises that literally threaten the health and safety of entire populations of people—ebola virus in Zaire; deadly chemical release in a Tokyo subway; disease-causing radioactive fallout in the Marshall Islands; outbreaks in Spain of illness from contaminated cooking oil; worldwide immunization efforts to prevent deadly childhood and adult illnesses such as smallpox—now completely eradicated because of these efforts; typhoid fever, and polio.

Though its origins—in Atlanta, GA—and its early mission were modest—the control of malaria in war areas—CDC quickly gained strength and prominence as the world's emergency response team, as it formed critical and productive relationships with health officials throughout the United States and around the world. Its physicians and epidemiologists have been involved in public health activities ranging from the virtual eradication of polio from the Western hemisphere to quarantining the astronauts who first walked on the moon and examining the now-museum-housed moon rocks. CDC specialists have worked with American companies to help identify and solve workplace hazards and prevent worker injuries. The agency's specialized laboratories provide unique, state-of-the-art analyses of dangerous viruses, and unidentified toxins. The National Childhood Immunization Initiative, designed to achieve full, age-appropriate vaccination of all American children, to prevent completely preventable childhood illnesses such as whooping cough, measles, mumps, rubella, and polio; a nationwide program for early detection and control of breast and cervical cancer; and a dynamic education program targeted at smoking, the Nation's No. 1 preventable cause of illness, are all initiatives launched and still maintained by CDC.

Today, as it moves into the 21st century, and the second half of its first century, CDC is focused on the future of public health, and refocusing efforts to direct attention at problems that are just beginning, or are growing—new infectious diseases; reemergence of diseases once thought to be controlled, such as drug-resistant TB; prevention and control of birth defects and genetic diseases, such as fetal alcohol syndrome, mental retardation, and spina bifida; identification and control of environmental factors that lead to serious ad-

verse health effects, such as radiation and environmental lead; preventing disability and early death from injury and chronic disease; collecting and analyzing data that help to understand better how to protect and promote health; and refocusing a variety of activities on special health problems of teenagers and women.

I am proud to have supported the work of CDC over many of its 50 years. Congress and the American people have entrusted one of our most precious possessions to this remarkable agency—the public health. Today, CDC employs a small cadre of 6,300 dedicated people with a big and critically important task. CDC has never betrayed our trust, and has lived up to our expectations. I expect no less in the future. I congratulate CDC on this 50th birthday, and wish the agency at least 50 more, equally productive years.

IN HONOR OF REV. DR. ERMINE STEWART

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the outstanding career and 25 years of service to the Reverend Dr. Ermine Stewart. Called into the ministry in May 1956 to pastor a church in Coleyville, Jamaica, West Indies—Reverend Stewart has provided a global vision of missionary work and ministerial commitment that continues to extend itself to the New York area and beyond.

Upon his return to the United States in 1965, Reverend Stewart established a branch of the "Church of the First Born Miracle Temple, Inc." in the United States. Over the past 31 years Reverend Stewart has witnessed the unfolding prosperity of several churches throughout New York.

Presently, the Church of the First Born has nine churches, three of which are in the United States—New York, New Jersey, and Miami; one in the Province of Canada, and five on the Island of Jamaica. In addition to the established church branches, Reverend Stewart's devoted efforts and ministry have spawned the Television Ministry, which can be seen on J.B.C. Television in Jamaica. Such service exemplifies Reverend Stewart's instrumental work and institutional accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Reverend Ermine Stewart on receiving this impressive honor, and extend to him my best wishes for continued success in the ministry.

KALKASKA COUNTY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of this body, and the Nation, the 125th anniversary of the official founding of Kalkaska County, MI. In celebrating this occasion, I would like to take the opportunity to look back upon those years.

In 1855, William Copeland purchased a large tract of land, presently found between Round Lake and M-72 within what is now the Kalkaska County borders. After Mr. Copeland's purchase, a wave of settlers were brought in to clear trees for farms and orchards. This area was first known as Wabassee. Before becoming its own county, Kalkaska was part of Grand Traverse, Antrim and Crawford Counties. It was not until 1843 that the Wabassee area became known as Kalkaska County. In 1871, Kalkaska County residents officially organized themselves. The Village of Kalkaska became the county seat and was incorporated in 1887.

During the late 19th century, Kalkaska County became a magnet for lumberjacks, offering both success and failure to those who sought jobs. While some parts of Kalkaska County enjoyed economic booms, 13 other settlements closed down. A strong timber trade would remain until 1920, when the county's population leveled off at 5,570 people. The timber industry spurred the development of railroads to transport the timber. From farming to timber to railroads, an economic base for Kalkaska's development was established.

Kalkaska County also benefited economically from the spirit of mechanical innovation. Residents, such as Elmer Johnson, tinkered with the internal combustion engine, creating a few automobile prototypes in his day. One of these "Elmers" is currently displayed at the Kalkaska County Historical Museum.

Aviation was also subjected to innovation Kalkaska-style. Around the turn of the century, W.C. Freeman announced that he had built a flying machine and was attempting a trial flight. Unfortunately, no record exists of the success or failure of Mr. Freeman's attempt.

During this period of timber and innovation, Kalkaska encountered several citywide fires which leveled parts of the city. Some of the more destructive and memorable fires occurred in 1908 and 1910. But the most destructive fire in Kalkaska County occurred in 1921, when the central portion of the village of South Boardman burned to the ground. This part of South Boardman has never been rebuilt.

Mr. Speaker, Kalkaska County, MI, has had wonderful and varied experiences throughout its 125-year existence. Its development has mirrored much of northern Michigan's and on behalf of the State of Michigan and its people, I commend both past and present county and community leaders and wish Kalkaska a successful celebration and best wishes for a successful future.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREES OF MYSTERY

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House of Representatives I am proud to represent the owners of one of the premier attractions in the entire country, the trees of mystery. Nestled among the giant redwoods of California's north coast just north of the town of Klamath, this marvelous environment stands as a testament of how man and nature can coexist as partners.